App. F. IX-4

Previous References

1941-1 (War)

W File No. 24-40
Serial Nos. 1 & 2

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. Two only

Part B for March 1941

SUBJECT.

Foreign activities in India.

M. Krishnan.
28.3.41.

WD 0578—GPB—22,500—12-9-39

W 24-40-1 1281/39

The reply to this communication should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

Secret

No. F. 106/1939.

POL. & REV. SECRETARIAT 2. SEP. 1939

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore,
Bangalore..

Dated Bangalore, the 26th August

Subject:- Foreign activities in India..

SIR,

I am directed to say that the Government of India have recently had under review the evidence available of the activities in India of agents of certain foreign powers I enclose for the information of the Government of Mysore a brief summary of that evidence and request that this should be treated as a secret document.

2. His Excellency the Crown Representative desires that this information should be brought to the notice of the Government of Mysore who are requested :-

(a) to scrutinise all newspapers published in the State for evidence of foreign propaganda and to bring any of it to the notice of this Residency

(b) to co-operate with the Central Government in prohibiting the entry into and exhibition in the State of films which are not certified by the Boards of Film Censors in British India .

3. The Resident would be grateful if you would kindly inform him from time to time of any instances of foreign propaganda in the Mysore State which come to notice and of the action which has been taken to counteract it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

For perusal in the first instance. Copy of the letter may be sent to S.I.G.P. for such action as may be necessary in regard to local developments which are likely to be important or such as to cause anxiety.

1st Member
2 Dewan 3

P.D.O. 3/9/39 2815

The Publicity Office may also see these papers.

Secret Service: Secret Service
Intelligence. # (The intelligence
contained in the memorandum seems to
be merely alarmistic in so far, at any rate
as Mysore is concerned).

MM
29/8/39

Personally, I am utterly ignorant
of any such attempts as are spoken
of in the press. I have not come
across a single such instance.

MJ
30-8-39

MM
30/8/39
MJ
30/8

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST MINISTER OF COUNCIL
AUG 30 1939
No. 1968

DEWAN'S
30 A
No. 1616

FOREIGN ACTIVITIES IN INDIA.

The activities in question fall under the following main heads -

(1) The creation of a net-work of Indian agents working on behalf of foreign Powers.

(2) Consular activities.

(3) Scientific expeditions.

(4) The use of fishing craft.

(5) The employment of foreigners and sympathisers in 'key' positions.

(6) Political pressure.

(7) The despatch to India of political observers, and.

(8) Propaganda.

2. Of these activities, by far the most wide-spread is that of propaganda which is described at some length in the following paragraphs of this letter. The main directions in which the other activities are being conducted are as follows -

(1) The creation of a net-work of Indian agents working on behalf of foreign Powers.

Reliable information indicates that Germany is engaged in building up an organization of Indian agents who will be trained to be capable of functioning in the time of crisis. The difficulties in this direction, from the Nazi view point, lie in the ignorance of most Indians of the German language and their apathy towards affairs in Germany. There is reason to believe that efforts are being made to meet both these difficulties through existing organizations in this country.

(2) Consular activities.

There is ample information to the effect that the German and Japanese Consulates in particular are directing and financing almost every form of propagandist activity, and that their actions in so doing extend far beyond the legitimate

functions

functions of a consular office.

(3) Expeditions.

Foreign scientific expeditions frequently visit not only India but countries adjoining India and there is evidence that their objects in several cases have extended considerably beyond their ostensible purpose.

(4) The use of fishing-craft.

Foreign fishing craft, particularly Japanese, are believed to be actively used in Indian waters for the purpose of espionage.

(5) Foreigners in 'key' positions.

There is a considerable number of foreigners, particularly German, and also of British subjects who are under foreign influence, employed in important industries and in undertakings of public utility. The positions which they hold not only enable them to convey out of India information which might be of assistance to a potential enemy but also make it extremely easy for them, in the event of a war emergency, to do considerable damage to the plant.

(6) Political pressure.

It is known that the Nazi party is well organised throughout India in groups and centres of varying size and directed by leaders and lieutenants of varying but clearly definied ranks. This party exercises a close supervision over all German nationals in India and has created a rigoroulsy controlled espionage and propagandist organisation, the activities of which extend far beyond purely patriotic or social work.

(7) The Despatch to India of Political Observers.

There has for some time past been a succession of visitors to this country whose ostensible objects have been comparatively harmless, such as touring for pleasure, the collection of material for newspapers and the like, but whose real object is either known, or believed on good grounds, to have been the collection of political intelligence. The danger of such visitors has been stressed in recent information of a reliable nature to the effect that the complacence of the Government of India in allowing such persons to visit this country is making the task of Germany easier.

3. Propaganda.

The following are the main media by which foreign propaganda is carried out -

(1) the Press,
(2) pamphlets,
(3) films,
(4) wireless,
(5) contact with Indian political organisations,
(6) commercial contacts,
(7) contacts with influential Indians abroad,
(8) educational contacts, including
    (i) cultural Institutes,
    (ii) Universities in India,
    (iii) scholarships for study abroad.

In the following paragraphs each of these forms of propaganda is briefly described.

4. Press propaganda.

Press propaganda is carried out

(a) externally, by the despatch of material direct to newspapers in India by agents employed abroad for that purpose, and

(b)

(b) internally, by the distribution of material through agencies and, in some cases, through the Consulates. Such distribution is frequently accompanied by the offer of patronage in the form of advertisements.

The extent of distribution, both from outside and within India, is fairly wide, but the number of articles published in the better known newspapers is comparatively small. Latterly there has been a noticeable increase in the number of articles appearing in the less-well-known papers.

(5) Pamphlets.

The use of the pamphlet for propagandist purposes has increased considerably in the last few months. These pamphlets are addressed from outside India direct to recipients in India (in the case of Germany) and are also distributed by hand and by post within this country (in the cases of Japan and Italy as well as Germany) ~~Take~~ They take the forms of

(a) news pamphlets,

(b) translations of politicsl speeches (e.g. Herr Hitler's speech of the 28th April which has been widely circulated), and

(c) brochures advertising the beauties of the countryside, the prosperity of the people, and the economic development of the country. Recently, in the case of Germany, a periodical entitled "News from Germany" edited by one Hoffmann, has been despatched to a carefully selected but extensive range of persons. Efforts have already been made to use this particular pamphlet as a means of initiating correspondence between Germany and its Indian recipients. Japan also issues a large number of brochures and it is reported that the publication of two magazines for propagandist purposes is financed through her consulate in Calcutta.

6. Films.

The use of the film as a medium of propaganda has been noticed in this country at both public and private displays sponsored by Consulates and cultural societies. There is now some indication that the Indian public is being carefully prepared (after the manner of the radio technique) for the display of German films in India. From the reviews of these films which are distributed in Urdu and English, it appears that they are for the most part unobjectionable, but that occasionally one with a propagandist or revolutionary motif is to be introduced. Japanese and Italian film displays have been given from time to time under the control of their consulates.

7. Wireless.

Apart from the regular broadcasts in English from Berlin, which have recently been couched in strongly anti-British terms, broadcasts in Indian languages are being transmitted from Germany and Italy from time to time. So far as is known Japan directs no broadcast propaganda to India. The technique adopted by Germany is to introduce during the broadcasting of programmes otherwise unobjectionable unannounced talks on political or other subjects. The Italian broadcasts in Indian languages are reported to lack enterprise although they are a regular feature of the programme from Bari.

8. Contacts with Indian political organisations.

(a) Nazi approach to Muslims.

The efforts of the Nazi party to enlist the sympathies of Muslim organizations have been under observation for some time past. Manifestations of the efforts which are being made are to be found in

(1) a constant flow of propagandist literature in Urdu, which has been addressed to the smaller Urdu papers from Germany,

(2) the existence of a Nazi cell in the Aligarh Muslim University, and

(3) isolated reports, not thoroughly confirmed, that German businessmen are making political approaches to the Muslims with whom they come into contact.

Efforts of Japan to persuade the Muslims of India that Japan has the interests of Islam at heart have been persistent.

(b) Approach to Hindus.

Efforts of the Nazi party to conciliate Hindu opinion have been noticeable in their approach to the Arya Samaj and the Hindu Mahasabha. Preference is shown to the Arya Samaj in the allotment of scholarships for higher education in Germany.

The preaching of a certain Hindu who has recently returned to India from Germany emphasizes the close affinity alleged to exist between Aryan Germany and Hindu India.

Japan has shown a distinct tendency to seek the favour of the Hindu Mahasabha.

(c) Approach to revolutionaries.

There has been information of attempts being made by terrorists in Bengal to establish contact with the Nazi group.

9 Commercial contacts.

There is reason to believe that much propaganda is carried on through the medium of commercial contacts. It is known, for example, that certain trading agencies of Japan and Germany have definite intelligence and propaganda functions for the proper fulfilment of which they are ~~responsable~~ responsible to higher quarters. The known methods adopted are

(1) to distribute political propagandist leaflets in business covers,

(2) for travelling agents to leave propagandist articles and leaflets lying conspicuously in the places they visit,

(3) for businessmen to talk on political matters with their clients, and

(4) to offer high advertisement rates to newspapers in return for the publication of propaganda.

Contacts with influential Indians visiting foreign countries.

It is known that when Indians of standing, whose opinions might be utilized in influential circles, visit Germany, Italy, or Japan, steps are taken to treat them in such a way that they will feel under an obligation to speak well of that country and its institutions on their return to India. In some cases, pressure is brought upon them to deliver lectures or broadcasts while they are still there. It is known that, in Germany, there exists a special department at the Nazi Party Headquarters to deal with such visitors. The Indian revolutionary element which has been resident in Japan for many years, working on behalf of the Japanese Government, seeks to establish contact with, and influence, all Indians visiting the country, especially students. Recently a batch of 64 students was sent back to India with instructions to spread pro-Japanese propaganda.

11. Educational contacts.

(a) Cultural Institutes in India.

The establishment of cultural institutes in this country is a well recognized form of propaganda. In these institutions, languages are taught and the students of all ages are generally subjected to the influence of the country concerned. In the case of Germany it is through such

institutions

institutions, ~~xxx~~ that persons are selected for special training under the cover of the grant of scholarships for higher education. Italy has also made some progress in this direction, but Japan relies primarily on the Indo-Japanese Trade Association as the medium for the cultivation of cultural as well as trade relationships.

(b) Universities.

In certain Universities in India there are foreign agents in the guise of professors or coaches, whose influence over University undergraduates is used for propaganda purposes. In one University the Nazi influence is reported to have reached a stage where not only is there a comparatively strong Nazi party in the University, but the discipline of the undergraduates is said to have suffered as a result. In another University the Japanese professor has formed the nucleus of a propaganda unit consisting of students, he himself being the leading Japanese propagandist in India.

(c) Scholarships for study abroad.

In the selection of Indian students for higher study abroad a governing consideration is the influence which they may be expected to exert in favour of the foreign country on their return to India. With this end in view efforts are made to select students from amongst all classes and religions and, where possible, to favour those whose social or political position makes it likely that they will, on their return, be able to advance the interests of the foreign country in which they have studied. Societies exist abroad to promote the interests of such students during their sojourn abroad Germany has specialised in this form of activity.

Foreign Activities in India

General and Revenue Secretariat.	File No.	of 19	1291 (1)	A pp. F. III-2

Serial No.

draft to the Govt

w Secy)

The chief Secy
and that a copy
of the enclosure may
be sent to the D.G.P;
today.
GD
4/9.

C 4/9/39

D 2nd Sept. 39 to the Govt of Bombay

NOTE-Contn. Sheet.

Appendix F G—1]

SUBJECT.....

.....

.....

Diary No. of letter replied to .....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the *193* .

Date of issue 2/9/39

Signed by Mr. C. S. A.

List of enclosures.....

Copied by.....

Examined by.....

Section

File No.

Serial No.

Secret

No. P1352/Secy 2.

To The I.G. of Police.

Foreign Activities in India

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of Secret letter No. F. 10h/1939 dt 26th Aug. 39 with its enclosure on the above subject for favour of your information and such action as may be necessary in regard to local developments

I have &c

for Chief Secretary to Govt.

2/9/39

WD 0563—GPB—30,000—6-1-39

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

General and Revenue Secretariat W 24-40-2

No. F 1352 (Enc 2)

Dated, Bangalore, ~~2nd September 1939~~.

From SECRET.

The Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Law Department.

To

The Inspector General of Police in Mysore,

Bangalore.

FOREIGN ACTIVITIES IN INDIA.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of Secret letter No.F.106/1939 dated 26th August 1939 with its enclosure on the above subject for favour of your information and such action as may be necessary regard to local developments.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary to Govt. Law Dep

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(5) The employment of foreigners and sympathisers in 'key' positions.

(6) Political pressure.

(7) The despatch to India of Political observers and

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There is ample information to the effect that the German and Japanese Consulates in particular are directing and financing almost every form of propagandist activity, and that their actions in so doing extend far beyond the legitimate functions of a consular office.

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Foreign scientific expeditions frequently visit not

not only India but countries adjoining India and there is evidence that their objects in several cases have extended considerably beyond their ostensible purpose.

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10. Contacts with influential Indians visiting foreign countries.

It is known that when Indians of standing, whose opinions might be utilized in influential circles, visit Germany, Italy, or Japan, steps are taken to treat them in such a way that they will feel under an obligation to speak well of that country and its institutions on their return ot India. In some cases, pressure is brought upon them to deliver lectures or broadcasts while they are still there. It is known that, in Germany, there exists a special department at the Nazi Party Headquarters to deal with such visitor The Indian revolutionary element which has been resident in Japan for many years, working on behalf of the Japanese Government, seeks to establish contact with, and influence, all Indians visiting the country, especially students. Recently a batch of 54 students was sent back to India with instructions to spread pro-Japanese propaganda.

11. Educational contacts.

(a) Cultural Insitutes in India.

The establishment of cultural institutes in this country is a well recognised from of propaganda. In these institutions languages are taught and the students of all ages are generally

generally subjected to the influence of the country concerned. In the case of Germany it is through such institutions that persons are selected for special training under the cover of the grant of scholar-ships for higher education. Italy has also made some progressin this direction, but Japan relies primarily on the Indo-Japanese Trade Association as the medium for the cultivation of cultural as well as trade relationships.

(b) Universities.

In certain Universities in India there are foreign agents in the guise of professors or coaches, whose influence over University undergraduates is used forpropaganda purposes. In one University the Nazi influence is reported to have reached a stage where not only is there a comparatively strong Nazi party in the University but the discipline of the undergraduates is said to have suffered as a result- In another University the Japanese professor has formed the nucleus of a propaganda unit consisting of students, he himself being the leading Japanese propagandist in India.

(c) Scholarships for study abroad.

In the selection of Indian students for higher study abroad a governing consideration is the influence which they may be expected to exert in favour of the foreign country on their return to India. With this end in view efforts are made to select students from amongst all classes and religions and, where possible, to favour those whose social or political position makes it likely that they will, on their return, be able to advance the interests of the foreign country in which they have studied. Societies exist abroad to promote the interests of such students during their sojourn abroad. Germany has specialised in this form of activity.

FOREIGN ACTIVITIES IN INDIA.

The activities in question fall under the following main heads:-

(1) The creation of a net-work of Indian agents working on behalf of foreign Powers.

(2) Consular activities.

(3) Scientific expenditions.

(4) The use of fishing craft

(5) The employment of foreigners and sympathisers in 'key' positions.

(6) Political pressure.

(7) The despatch to India of Political observers and

(8) Propaganda.

2. Of these activities, by far the most wide-spread is that of propaganda which is described at some length in the following paragraphs of this letter. The main directions in which the other activities are being conducted are as follows:-

(1) <u>The creation of a net-work of Indian agents working on behalf of foreign Powers</u>.

Reliable information indicates that Germany is engaged in building up an organisation of Indian agents who will be trained to be capable of functioning in the time of crisis. The difficulties in this direction, from the Nazi view point, lie in the ignorance of most Indians of the German language and their apathy towards affairs in Germany. There is reason to be lieve that efforts are being made to meet both these difficulties through existing organizations in this country.

(2) <u>Consular activities</u>.

There is ample information to the effect that the German and Japanese Consulates in particular are directing and financing almost every form of propagandist activity, and that their actions in so doing extend far beyond the legitimate functions of a consular office.

(3) <u>EXPEDITIONS</u>.

Foreign scientific expeditions frequently visit not

not only India but countries adjoining India and there is evidence that their objects in several cases have extended considerably beyond their ostensible purpose.

(4) The use of fishing craft.

Foreign fishing craft, particularly Japanese, are believed to be actively used in Indian waters for the purpose of espionage.

(5) Foreigners in 'key' positions.

There is a considerable number of foreigners particularly German, and also og British subjects who are under foreign influence, employed in important industries and in undertakings of public utility. The position which they hold not only enable them to convey out of India information which might be of assistance to a potential enemy but also make it extremely easy for them, in the event of a war emergency, to do considerable damage to the plant.

(6) Political pressure.

It is known that the Nazi party is well organised throughout India in groups and centres of varying size and directed by leaders and lieutenants of varying but clearly defined ranks. This party exercises a close supervision over all German nationals in India and has created a rigorously controlled espionage and propagandist organisation, the activities of which extend far beyond purely patriotic or social work.

(7) The Despatch to India of Political Observers.

There has for sometime past been a success of visitors to this country whose ostensible objects have been comparatively harmless, such as touring for pleasure, the collection of material for newspapers and the like, but whose real object is either known, or believed on good grounds to have been the collection of political intelligence. The danger of such visitors has been stressed in recent information of a reliable nature to the effect that the

complacence of the Government of India in allowing such persons to visit this country is making the task of Germany easier.

3. Propaganda.

The following are the main media by which foreign propaganda is carried out:-

(1) the press,

(2) Pamphlets,

(3) films

(4) wireless

(5) contract with Indian Political organisations,

(6) commercial contracts

(7) contracts with influential Indians abroad,

(8) educational contracts, including

(i) cultural Institutes

(ii) Universities in India

(iii) scholarships for study abroad

In the following paragraphs each of these forms of propaganda is briefly described.

4. Press propaganda.

Press propaganda is carried out

(a) externally, by the despatch of material direct to newspapers in India by agents employed abroad for that purpose, and

(b) internally, by the distribution of material through agencies and, in some cases, through the Consulates. Such distribution is frequently accompanied by the offer of patronage in the form of advertisements.

The extent of distribution, both from outside and within India, is fairly wide, but the number of articles published in the better known newspapers is comparatively small. Latterly there has been a noticeable increase in the number of articles appearing in the less well-known papers.

(5) Pamphlets.

The use of the pamphlet for propagandist purposes has increased consideranly in the last few months. These pamphlets are addressed from outside India direct to recipients in India (in the case of Germany) and are also distributed by hand and by post within this country (in the cases of Japan and Italy as well as Germany). They take the forms of

(a) news pamphlets,

(2) translations of political speeches (e.g. Herr Hitler's speech of the 28th April which has been widely circulated), and

(c) brochures advertising the beauties of the countryside, the prosperity of the people, and the economic development of the country. Recently in the case of Germany, a periodical entitled "News from Germany" Edited by one Hoffmann, has been despatched to a carefully selected but extensive range of persons. Efforts have already been amde to use this particular pamphlet as a means of initiating correspondence between Germany and its Indian recipients. Japan also issues a large number of brochures and it is reported that the publication of two magazines for propagandist purposes is financed through her consulate in Calcutta.

6. Films.

The use of the film as a medium of propaganda has been noticed in this country at both public and private displays sponsored by Consulates and cultural societies. There is now some indications that the India Public is being carefully prepared (after the manner of the radio technique) for the display of German films in India. From the reviews of these films which are distributed in Urdu and English, it appears that they are for the most part unobjectionable, but that occasionally one with a propagandist or revolutionary motif is to be introduced. Japanese and Italian film displays have been given from time to time under the control of their consulates.

7. Wireless.

Apart from theregular broadcasts in English from Berlin, which have recently been couched in strongly anti-British terms, broadcasts in Indian languages are being transmitted from Germany and Italy from time to time. So far as is known Japan directs no broadcast propaganda to India. The technique adopted by Germany

Germany is to introduce during the broadcasting of programmes otherwise unobjectionable unannounced talks on political or other subjects. The Italian broadcasts in Indian languages are reported to lack enterprise although they are a regular feature of the programme from Bari.

8. Contacts with Indian political organisations.

(a) Nazi approach to Muslims.

The efforts of the Nazi party to enlist the sympathies of Muslim organizations hage been under observation for some time past. Manifestations of the efforts which are being made are to be found in

(1) a constant flow of propagandist literature in Urdu, which has been addressed to the smaller Urdu papers from Germany,

(2) the existence of a Nazi cell in the Aligarh Muslim University, and

(3) isolated reports, not thoroughly confirmed, that German businessmen are making political approaches to the Muslims with whom they come into contact.

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